

Belmont Park Boosters Plan Party

BEL. COVR. 1/26/77
Twin Pines Manor will be the setting Friday, Jan. 28, of a community party staged by the Belmont Park Boosters, and, according to Judith Nawag, it is "anticipated to be the most outrageously casual event of the entire Belmont

social season." The Belmont Park Boosters is a loosely-formed group that gets together to plant trees, help with park improvements, lobby for increased recreation needs, raise funds, and sponsor an

occasional free outdoor concert for the community.

Guests are requested to bring a bottle of wine, glasses, pillows for seating, and their ideas for concert programming and operations. The Boosters will provide snacks, entertainment, music, cleanup "and a robust welcome for everyone."

Tree Program To Start To Enhance 'Atmosphere'

BEL. COVR. 3/16/77
To add to the city's "park-like atmosphere," the Belmont Parks and Recreation Department will start its Plant a Tree program, said Supervisor James Raymond.

A free, one-gallon sized tree will be given to residents on a first-come, first served basis starting March 21, the supervisor explained.

Residents can take their pick of evergreen, deciduous, large and small growing trees, and will receive information on care and planting.

To get a tree, applicants must present proof of residency and plant the

tree on private property.

When the initial supply is depleted, said Mr. Raymond, a waiting list will be started.

The Parks and Recreation Department has Liquidamber and Southern Magnolia for large-growing trees and Myoporum and Chinese Pistache as smaller. Deciduous trees lose their leaves during Fall and Winter.

To get a tree, said Mr. Raymond, come to the department office in Twin Pines Park, Ralston Avenue, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Fridays from 8 to noon.

The trees are limited to one per family.

Fence Is Painted

BEL. COVR. 5/25/78
With a little paint from the city and some volunteer efforts from the public, the Alexander Park fences got a new paint job recently. The paint was provided by the Belmont Parks and Recreation Dept., while the volunteers were rustled up by the Sterling Downs Neighborhood Association

in one of its first projects. With Jim Morris at the helm, the job only took an hour and a half.

Series of Concerts Set at Twin Pines Park

BEL. COVR. 5/25/77
Art and business worlds join to bring San Mateo County a series of five musical concerts in May and June, ranging from Dixieland jazz and bluegrass country music to symphonic variety.

Sponsors include Fidelity Savings and Loan Association, Music Performance Trust Funds of the Recording Industries through local 6, American Federation of Musicians, Belmont Park Boosters,

the San Mateo County Arts Council and the Belmont Recreation and Parks Department.

Performances will be given Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. at Belmont's Twin Pines Park, 1225 Ralston Ave.

May 29 a variety show by "America is Us" Academy will present a variety of songs and dances entitled "Serendipity '77" directed by Bob Bentley of Belmont. June 5 Turk Murphy will

bring his famous eight piece Dixieland Jazz Band from Earthquake McGoons to perform old favorites.

June 12 Country Western and Bluegrass Music will be played by the "Back in the Saddle" and June 19 the San Carlos Symphony will perform Symphony Pops music conducted by James Tippey.

All concerts are on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m., free and open to the public.

Tennis Club Sets Rules, Preparing For Tourneys

BEL. Club. 4/13/77
Selection of officers, preparation of a constitution and preliminary plans for two April tournaments have been completed by the new Belmont Tennis Club, sponsored by the Belmont Recreation Department. Directing the club's activities will be Ken Scott,

president; Don Arata, vice president; Cathy Ellefson, secretary, and Chris Dier, treasurer.

Team captains (pro tem) are Les Ellefson and Raymond Rivas, while women's team captains are Dione Bettles and Judy Kaine. Social chairmen are

Joyce O'Neill and Greta Gonsalves.

Voting on the club's constitution and discussion of the club's tennis ladder will be two major items of business at the group's next membership meeting, set for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, at the Belmont City Council chamber, 1365 Fifth Ave.

A club youth program, for players 16 years of age and under, also will be discussed at the meeting.

More than 100 persons already have joined the new organization. Others interested in joining may contact the Belmont Recreation Department.

Councilors Ask for More Details On Belameda Purchase, Trees

BEL. CO. ORD. 2/2/77

The issue of whether Belmont should pay approximately \$500,000 to renovate the Belameda pool to be used for public purposes, and a new tree ordinance were discussed at a special meeting of the city council on Jan. 31.

Meeting jointly with the Parks and Recreation Commission, councilors and commission members discussed the pool issue, but took no action.

The councilors discussed the feasibility of repairing the pool, building a new one, possibly establishing a pool at some other location or scrapping the whole idea.

"The money is there," City Manager James DeChaine told the council.

The council can decide on whether the job should be spread over a five year period or done all at once.

Commission members asked for a "commitment" from council members on whether they wanted to continue the program,"

Mayor William Hardwick told them.

The Belameda pool, located on Alameda de las Pulgas, was originally part of a school. When the private school closed, the city began to consider using the present facilities for public purposes.

At this time, councilors learned from city staffers, they may receive money from the county to build a pool, based on the fact that a county report showed a need for more swimming programs.

At the meeting, several other options were thrown out for discussion and councilors asked that another report be prepared.

Councilors also asked that the commissioners be more specific in the wording of a new ordinance that would place the responsibility of caring for city trees on individual homeowners.

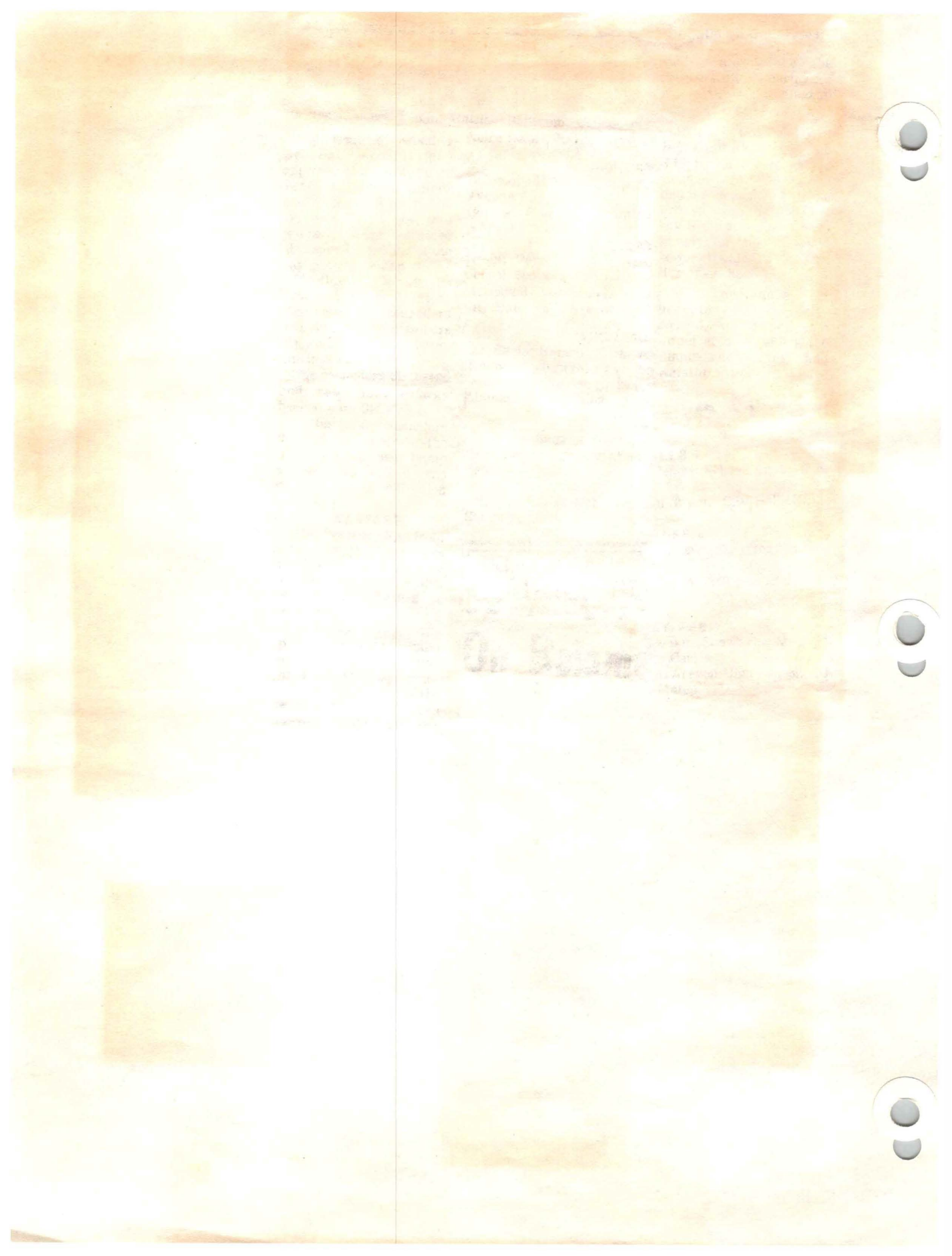
Joan Collins, a representative of the Sterling Downs Homeowners Association told the councilors that the present wording did not say if citizens would have to pay for sidewalk and sewer repairs if a tree damaged them.

The ordinance, if accepted by the city council, would designate target area, including the Alameda de las Pulgas and Ralston Avenue, where

trees would be cared for by the city.

But in other areas, homeowners would be responsible for care or removal of trees, and would have to get a special permit from the Recreation and Parks Commission to take out a tree.

"Requests for tree work to be performed on any street other than those designated shall be the financial responsibility of the individual property owner's except in cases deemed as immediate public safety hazards by the staff," the ordinance presently reads.



BEL. COURIER 6/8/77
**Bike Safari
This Sunday**

The Belmont Parks and Leisure Services Department is sponsoring a BIKE SAFARI on June 12, 1977, at 10:30 a.m. for the citizens of Belmont.

Dedication ceremonies for the city's new bike routes will be held on the site located approximately one-quarter mile west of Hallmark Drive on the south side of Ralston Avenue. Cyclists are encouraged to follow the route down Ralston Avenue ending at Twin Pines Park.

Activities planned at the park are hints on the care and upkeep of your bike, safety tips from the police department, bicycle rodeo, and a bike decorating contest with awards for the kids.

S. M. TIMES 3/11/77

Belmont to Give Trees to Residents

Belmont residents who dream of having beautiful shade and ornamental trees on their property — or even of the valuation added — have their chance to make it a reality, if they move quickly enough.

Starting a program of "Plant A Tree" to create a park-like atmosphere in the city, the Belmont Recreation and Park Department is offering four kinds of trees free for the taking in one gallon cans to residents who prove, by auto license or otherwise, that they live in Belmont.

They will be available, starting March 21, on a first-come, first-served basis at the department office in Twin Pines Park. There will be only 12 of

each kind available March 21, however. There may be more a month later, it is understood.

Not only will the city present a free tree to the asker, but it also will give the Belmont resident receiving it free information on care and planting.

The trees being offered must be planted on private property in Belmont. When the initial supply is exhausted, those who want a tree will be notified when more are available.

The trees will be Liquidambar (Sweet Gum), Southern Magnolia, Myoporum and Chinese Pistache.

The gum tree, an eastern import that thrives here, grows to 30 feet in 15 to 20 years. It has a pyramid

shape and leaves that are divided like a maple leaf. In the fall, the leaves turn a bright red.

The magnolia grows slowly to a spreading shape, about 40 feet high, over a 30-year period. About five or six years after it is planted, the beautiful, large fragrant blooms appear.

The Myoporum is an import from Australia and New Zealand much prized for landscaping. Umbrella-shaped, it is an evergreen with thick, heavy, dark green foliage. It grows to 10 to 15 feet in height in 10 years.

The pistache is another landscaping tree which comes out with a lace-like bright light green foliage in early spring, turning to a bright yellow and orange in the fall before it loses its leaves. It also grows to about 15 feet in 10 years.

Both the gum and the pistache are trees that after the leaves are gone, are picturesque against the sky, according to James W. Raymond, park supervisor.

The department office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to noon.

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Park Boosters

BEL. COURIER 10/19/77
The Belmont Park Boosters will hold a spaghetti dinner Sunday, Oct. 30, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Twin Pines Lodge, Belmont.

The event is open to the public. Tickets will be available at the door.

Supervisor of Parks

He Helps to Make Belmont Beautiful

BEL. COOR. 11/9/77
By JUNE PALMER

His approach is so casual and unpretentious that while walking along a nature trail in Twin Pines Park, Jim Raymond, Supervisor of Belmont's Parks Department, indicated the luxuriant growth and observed with pride that it looked "like a real professional job," then laughed, adding "which it is, of course, I forget, we are professionals."

As supervisor, his busy schedule involves him in more than just walking through the parks. At the moment, he's busy overseeing the planting of several hundred bulbs including varieties of tulips, hyacinths, narcissus and crocuses so that come spring, Belmont's park will be awash with color.

Although the beauty of a particular tulip is short-lived - the average tulip only lasts for seven to ten days, the various classes of tulips follow one another into flower in a overlapping sequence from early to late spring ensuring at least six weeks of bloom.

"They're so fantastic when they're in bloom," says Raymond and the reaction of Belmont residents has been so favorable to the display of such exotic flowers as Red Riding Hood, a vigorous carmine-red tulip with a black center surrounded by scarlet, and the accompanying spectrum of vivid colors that "we've doubled the amount we put in last year."

When not planting bulbs, his main job is the maintenance of Twin Pines, Hallmark, Cipriani, O'Donnell Alexander, Marine, Rebec, Belemeda and Fox Tot Lot Parks, the landscaping of some eight miles of borders, islands and areas surrounding government buildings, plus the upkeep of Belmont's 3,000 trees.

Although the administrative angle and its attendant duties are new to him, Jim considers it a "challenge" noting that he's still primarily a gardener at heart and often pitches in to work side-by-side with his crew of six full-time gardeners. A crew that "he'd weigh against and on the Peninsula."

"To most crew's, it's just a job, but here everyone is involved and knowledgeable in horticulture and botany and has an average of ten years of experience in the field," says Raymond who encourages his staff not only to contribute in the decision-making process but to pursue personal interests and projects as well.

For example, Ken Heim's interest in indigenous plants that verge on extinction ensures that one day Twin Pines will be "unique in the area for its display of native plants" because of the cuttings Heim acquired from dif-

Another gardener, Karl Mittelstadt has a degree in anthropology and provides folk lore on any Indian artifacts they chance upon in their work.

Although the townspeople are anxious to preserve the "natural" quality of Twin Pines Park, Raymond explains that there is a lot of work to be done because what often appears to be "natural" is often a "formerly landscaped area gone wild."

Unfortunately, some areas of Belmont's parks are in a state of decline because they were planted with non-native plant material and now must be replaced with drought-resistant plants such as Wild Lilac, Manzite, Rock Rose and Juniper and other "specimen plants that will be good for Belmont."

Also declining are the 100-foot, 50-60 year old Monterey Pines located along Ralston Avenue. Originally native to the Monterey Peninsula, they

must be uprooted and replaced with compatible trees which will leave Belmont bereft of trees for 20 years.

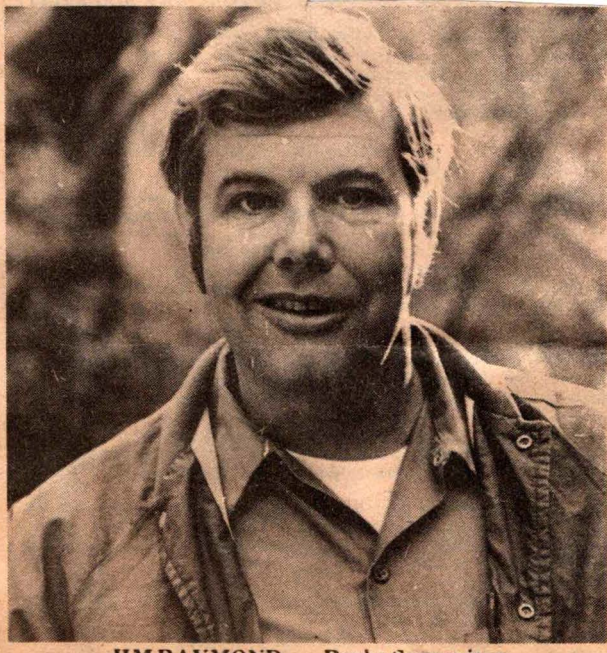
Another paramount concern of Raymond and his staff involves ways in which to offset the effects of the water crisis. Currently, they're involved in a variety of irrigation projects designed to "use less water more efficiently." They've installed an automatic

sprinkling system, innovated and updated existing equipment, in addition to watering at night to save water from evaporation.

Re-activating the well at Twin Pines that dates to the 1940's has saved money by utilizing well, rather than city water.

Unfortunately, since some of the department's efforts have been undermined by vandalism and Raymond urges Belmont citizens to report any witnessed acts of vandalism to the police.

Raymond started at the Park's Department three years ago as a gardener before he became a foreman then supervisor. He attended UCLA, spent a year as a firefighter in Angeles Forest in Los Angeles County and now resides in San Mateo County where he attends to his "low-maintenance" garden on weekends.



JIM RAYMOND ...Parks Supervisor

ferent locales and planted in the park.



OFF AND RUNNING are the 350 semi-fanatical joggers who tackled a hill-ridden 8.93 course in the first ever "Belmont Steaks" race last Saturday. Three hundred and eight of them finished, among them Roxanne Bair (below), who, at 59th, was the top woman finisher and is the state high school champion in the two-mile; Kevin O'Connor, a 15-year-old who was the top Belmont finisher, running 51:37 for the 16th spot; and a gummy Belmont youngster named Anthony Garcia, who finished an extremely determined 308th in a time of 99:09.



Wed., August 10, 1977

Belmont Courier-Bulletin—3



Central Owners Slate Meeting

Bel. Cou. 9/17/77
Central Homeowners Association general fall meeting will be held Thursday evening, September 15, at 8 p.m. in the multi-use room of Central School, Middle Road and Virginia Avenue.

According to Mrs. Betty Rupp, program chairman for the meeting, the general topic will be "A Re-evaluation of the Water Crisis" with guest speakers Chief Richard Weare, Belmont Fire Department, and Mr. Harold Heidrick, Belmont County Water District.

A question and answer session will follow the two presentations. All homeowners in the Central area are invited to attend. Complimentary home baked goods and coffee will be served.

The July-August CHA Membership Drive resulted in more than 100 new families joining the association. Families residing in the Central area, west of El Camino, north of Ralston, east of Alameda, and the San Mateo border on the north, may still join CHA for the 1977-78 year by mailing their annual \$3 membership check to: C.H.A.; 2007 Forest Belmont 94002.



FUTURE PARK — Belmont City Manager James DeChaine and Director of Parks and Leisure Services Frank Bellanti look over a portion of the 47-acre Lumberman's Acceptance Property which is in the process of being acquired by the City for a park. Acquisition of the land is being made possible by a gift

of tax-exempt bonds valued at \$125,000 through the estate of the late Robert Stanton Brooks. Mr. Brooks, who resided in Belmont for 45 years, died in September.

—Photo by Rohn Wood

Bond Gift Makes Possible Purchase of New City Park

BEL. COUR. By MAVIS DAVIES 12/7/77

A gift of tax-exempt municipal bonds valued at \$125,000 has been made to the City of Belmont by the late artist and businessman Robert Stanton Brooks with the stipulation that the funds be used to purchase open space land.

Known only to his friends and neighbors in the Pine Knoll district this gentle man, who lived in Belmont for 45 years, recognized the importance of preserving a green belt in the rapidly growing community. Brooks was one of the first environmentalists to urge more care in planning, in order to preserve more open space.

As Brooks had no relatives in this country he placed the bonds in the custody of his close friends and executors Dr. and Mrs. Harold Stearn, in the knowledge that they would carry out his wish for acquisition of wooded open space.

After meetings between the Stearns, City Manager James DeChaine, and Director of Parks and Leisure Services Frank Bellanti, it was felt that the 47 acres of the Lumberman's Acceptance Property was the logical candidate as it met the criteria set forth by Brooks.

According to DeChaine, the City has long felt that this property should be under their control in order to avoid further development in that area.

The property is located west of Notre Dame Lake, east of the Hallmark Homes subdivision and south of the Belcrest Gardens subdivision.

"Dr. Stearn asked that the Lumberman's Acceptance Property be designated John Stanton Brooks Memorial Preserve, or some such appropriate name, with the agreement that it be held in perpetuity and the

City Council agreed," said DeChaine.

The City has already received the \$125,000 worth of bonds from the Stearns and DeChaine has requested City Attorney Kenneth Dickerson to begin proceedings for the acquisition of the property. "We hope to see the title cleared and escrow opened shortly so that the bonds may be sold," DeChaine said.

"This is one of those rare opportunities I have long dreamed about putting together," said DeChaine and voiced high regard for the manner in which the Stearns' handled the negotiations.

With the Lumberman's Acceptance Property and the 50-acre parcel of Notre Dame Lake, which the City has on a long term lease, along with the 3.2 acres southwest of Ralston Intermediate School purchased earlier this year from Edward and Margaret Cunningham, the City of Belmont will have, according to DeChaine, 100 acres which it either owns, will own, or has on a long term lease.

According to a release from DeChaine, Brooks was educated at Redwood City High School and attended the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco where he trained, and was later successful, as a portrait painter. He was in charge of the Children's Painting Program at the San Francisco Museum of Art and sponsored classical music programs before serving in the Pacific during WW II.

When the war ended Brooks joined his father in running the family furniture business on Whipple Avenue, Redwood City while continuing his interest in the arts and music from his Belmont home. He died in September at the age of 64 after a long illness.

School Program Seeks Personnel

BEL. COOR. 12/21/77

The Belmont Parks and Leisure Services Department is currently searching for qualified personnel in order to fill vacancies in the After School Sports Program at Ralston School.

Potential candidates must possess skills and experience in order to lead a competitive sports program for boys

and girls. Other duties include coordination of transportation, facilities and schedules.

The rate of pay for approximately 12 hours per week is \$3.10 to \$3.35 per hour.

For more information, please contact the Belmont Recreation Division by calling, 573-3561.